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THE

JUVENILE GUIDE,

IN A

Series of Letters,

ON

VARIOUS SUBJECTS,

ADDRESSED TO

YOUNG LADIES.

By the Authoress of 'The Monitor.'

LONDON:

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1807.

DEDICATION

TO

MISS COKE,

HOLKHAM HALL,

NORFOLK.

MADAM,

PERMIT me to offer you my most grateful acknowledgments for the permission with which you have been pleased to honour me, of dedicating the following pages to you. The sanction of so respectable a name affixed to my little work, as it affords me the most

 confident

confident hopes of a successful circulation, is also at the same time highly flattering to the feelings of her, who has the honour to subscribe herself,

MADAM,

Your devoted,

And very obedient

Humble Servant,

THE AUTHORESS.

PREFACE.

THE indulgent reception which a former trifling publication of mine experienced, has induced me again to throw myself upon the candour of the public, with no better apology than the one I before pleaded—an earnest solicitude to render what powers I may possess subservient to the assistance and support of a family now requiring to be brought forward into the world. The patronage which I have solicited, and with which I am so happy as to be honoured, will, I am confident, shield me from censure, to which, were I unprotected, I am conscious I now expose myself. I do not expect that those who are advanced in life will condescend

to peruse the "Juvenile Guide:" the title proves that I had no view to their attention; but if they will so far honour me with their approbation, as to permit these letters to find their way into their school-rooms, they may perhaps afford an hour's amusement to the youthful inhabitants, and my gratification will be complete.

"Delightful task! To rear the tender thought,
"To teach the young idea how to shoot,
"To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,
"To breathe th' enlivening spirit, and to fix
"The generous purpose in the glowing breast.

THOMSON.

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The Juvenile Guide,

IN A

SERIES OF LETTERS.

LETTER I.

SPRING.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

AS very few at the early age to which I intend to address myself are not fond of receiving a letter, I beg leave to commence a correspondence with you on rather an extensive scale; and if your Governess will permit you to form

answers to each of these letters, it may probably imprint on your minds a few of the most interesting sentiments they contain. Do not suppose that I wish to check the artless and pleasing gaiety of youth. No: I wish to prove to you, it is, like the spring, that portion of life the most lovely and admired. You have seen how, in this season of the year, all nature opens, how every bud bursts forth, and every tender branch expands its shoots: you know with what ease a skilful hand can bend and form them as he judges most proper. In like manner is youth, by careful and prudent instruction,

formed

formed and moulded to the wishes of fond parents, whose example will always give weight to their advice; for I wish you to remember that the advice and opinions of those who gave you birth should be ever considered as entitled to the first respect.

But to return to the sweet season of spring—How beautiful is its advance!—how does every bud of plant or tree daily increase and improve! Such, my dear children, is your case; your minds expand like the flowers, while your innocent and active sports resemble those of the lambs skipping round

their mothers, each seeming to say —"Come, let us try our speed."

"Away they scour, impetuous, ardent,
"strong,
"The green turf trembling as they bound
"along,
"Adown the slope, then up the hillock climb,
"Where every molehill is a bed of thyme."

BLOOMFIELD'S FARMER'S BOY.

So great is the advantage to be derived from air and exercise, that if these are neglected while the mind is forming, habits of indolence will gain ground, and become too powerful for advice to check, or your greatest resolution to oppose. Idleness is a noxious weed, which must be rooted out: it grows with your growth, and strengthens with

with your strength. Be assured, nothing will render you either more dissatisfied with yourself, or disliked by every one, than such a propensity. It will, besides, make you inattentive to the important duties of cleanliness and œconomy; and I would have you reflect whether it be not worth your while to pay attention to the latter, if by it you have it in your power to gain the blessings of your poorer neighbours, and the heartfelt prayers of the distressed. A trifle saved by the prudent hand of œconomy, for the purpose of charitable relief, will always be the source of greater satisfaction to the giver, than the

indolently bestowing a far larger sum from a full purse.

Dull as this introductory letter may appear to my young friends, I hope it will not preclude the following ones from their notice; and with this flattering idea, I shall subscribe myself their sincere friend, &c. &c.

LETTER

LETTER II.

AGAIN I resume my pen, and beg leave to relate to you, my dear readers, a little tale, descriptive of the unhappiness that results from not being early taught the advantages of religion and honour.

Two sisters, whom we shall call Emma and Julia, having had the misfortune to lose their parents before they were of an age capable of receiving that kind instruction which would have instilled better principles into their tender minds, fell into the disgraceful habit of telling

telling untruths on every occasion, and of acting dishonestly whenever an opportunity presented itself of enriching themselves by the plunder of their artless and unsuspecting companions' toys and ornaments. By these practices they at length gained so bad a character wherever they went, that they were totally excluded from the society of their former friends, and even rejected as pupils at every boarding-school. At length Emma, who possessed much good sense, notwithstanding her unfortunate propensity to these vices, became so thoroughly convinced of her error, that by degrees an effectual reform

was made in her heart; and as nothing is more gratifying to a feeling mind than the recovery of a fellow-creature to the paths of virtue, she was again received among her former associates, a true penitent, and by her subsequent conduct fully compensated for her past failings.

Poor Julia was often admonished by her sister to reform, but refused to listen to her advice; she still pursued the same course of sin, neglecting every duty which she owed to herself, and equally inattentive to the service of God, until she became so lost to all sense of shame, that she lived an outcast

from

from all society but that of the most abandoned. After a while, sickness, that never-failing scourge of human errors, assailed her in its most terrific form. Then she felt and bitterly lamented the sad consequences of her misconduct. How often did she vow, that were she but once again restored to health, she would strive to regain her lost time, and by redoubled exertions endeavour to merit the blessing she implored—but she implored in vain—the awful summons came, and she reluctantly paid the great debt of nature, which, sooner or later, we must all discharge. Heaven alone can judge if her repent-

ance

ance was sincere, or whether, had she been permitted to have remained longer here below, her vows of amendment would have been fulfilled: but we may hope her contrition and her prayers were mercifully accepted by her Almighty Judge, and that she is permitted to gain a place in the blessed mansions of peace!

Thus, like a flower plucked in its prime, is youth, when the great God recalls it to himself.

" Hail! Source of Being! Universal Soul
" Of Heaven and earth! Essential Presence!
" hail!

" To

" To Thee I bend the knee, to Thee my
" thoughts,
" Continual climb, who with a master-hand
" Hast the great whole into perfection
" touch'd."

THOMSON.

Adieu, my gentle readers!

LETTER

LETTER III.

THIS cheerful season demands and well deserves the tribute of another letter, in which we will contemplate the lovely little feathered tribe. How tenderly affecting is the care and attention which the birds so unremittingly bestow on their little "callow brood!"—what inhumanity is it, then, in youth to wish to deprive them of their young, the only sweet reward of all their toil! It is wonderful, that any heart can be so insensible, so void of tenderness, as to seek the trifling gratification of possessing a few eggs, or an innocent helpless

bird, at the expence of so much pain as must necessarily be inflicted on the poor parents, whose voice of sorrow seems to plead so hard for mercy, while the unsparing little hand is commiting the cruel theft. Perhaps my opinion may be too severe; but I do believe, that by the uninterrupted practice of these infantile barbarisms, many a heart has grown callous, which, if a timely check had fortunately been given, would probably have afterwards retained far softer impressions.—

" I have found out a gift for my fair,
" I have found where the wood-pigeons breed;
" But let me that plunder forbear,
" She will say 'twas a barbarous deed."

SHENSTONE.

Every living creature has a claim upon our tenderness; and though there are some animals, which it may be proper and even necessary to destroy, yet let it be done without cruelty; for it is not improbable, that a custom of sporting with the life even of a diminutive insect, may in a course of time lead us to pay no greater regard to the life of a fellow-creature. In short, to give pain wantonly and unnecessarily to any one betrays a wickedness of heart that is truly detestable; while, on the other hand, a uniform desire of communicating pleasure and happiness to every thing around us,

proclaims a disposition the most amiable and the nearest allied to Heaven.—

" The mild forbearance of another's fault,
" The taunting word suppress'd as soon as
" thought,
" On these Heaven bade the bliss of life
" depend,
" And crush'd ill fortune when it made a
" friend."

Miss H. Moore.

Friendship is indeed one of the greatest consolations of life: I hope, therefore, my young friends will attach themselves to such only as possess real worth; for though we may live on good terms with all, yet the name of friend should, properly

properly speaking, be confined to those only, whose bright example may guide us safely through the intricate mazes of life, and in whose breast we may as safely repose all our cares, our griefs, and our pleasures, as if locked up in our own.

" Celestial happiness, when e'er the stoops
" To visit earth, one shrine the goddess finds,
" And one alone, to make her sweet
" amends,
" For absent Heav'n—the bosom of a friend."
YOUNG.

That all my young correspondents may have the happiness of meeting with such kindred souls, and retaining them through all the stages of life, is the sincere wish of their faithful &c. &c.

LETTER IV.

AND now, my young readers, let us advance to the season of summer, with which I beg leave to compare youth, arrived indeed at more solid opinions and improvements, but still cheerful and blooming as the spring, and at an age capable of enjoying all the amusements which prudence allows. Of these I know none more calculated to enliven the mind, and give grace to the person, than dancing. When free from conceit, awkwardness, and affectation, it is of all recreations the one most natural to young persons. Music has also

also a just claim to our attention. A well selected composition, finely executed, will always afford both performer and hearer exquisite delight. Drawing is also esteemed a great accomplishment, and is an abundant source of amusement; but this art is only to be attained where there is a natural taste, and strong partiality for such a study. Indeed this observation is equally applicable to music; for in both cases, unless assisted by natural genius, or bent towards these sciences, you will but pursue a shadow; you may perhaps, by perseverance and application, partly overcome these natural impediments;

ments, but you will never arrive at perfection—There is, however, one employment easily attained, and which never fails to give a relish and pleasing variety to life: I mean, reading. By this invaluable art the mind is ever receiving fresh information and delight. Here every taste can be suited, and every opposite inclination fully gratified, from the endless stores which reading furnishes. Under all the various turns of fortune, a relaxation is here presented to the mind which is sure to give relief to sorrow, and at the same time is equally powerful to heighten joy.

"Who

" Who can unpleas'd your shelves behold,
" While you so fair a proof unfold,
" What force the brightest genius draws
" From polish wisdom's written laws."

SHENSTONE.

In forming a library for the use of my young friends, first supposing them already provided with such publications on religious subjects, as are best adapted to their respective ages, I next recommend to their choice such as contain well-written histories, voyages, and judicious selections from our best poets. Many plays have merit sufficient to ensure them a welcome reception into our little libraries; but an indiscriminate collection

lection I by no means approve. I am well aware, that many of our novel-writers are much admired; but there are but few of these fascinating performances which I could wish to see in the hands of those I regard.—But I fear I have made my letter too long for the patience of my young scholars—Well then, that I may not quite lose their good opinion, by remaining longer on this serious subject, I shall stop my pen, and only add, that I am their sincere well-wisher, &c.

LETTER

LETTER V.

To atone for the long detention of my dear girls on so dull a subject as my last letter contained, I shall now call them for a ramble through the fields fragrant with the perfume of innumerable blossoms, and the sweet breath of the new-mown hay; and let us now fancy ourselves seated on the turf, while I relate a little story of the amiable and benevolent Lady B—, whose chief and constant study it was to diffuse happiness wherever she went. By some accident she had heard, that in a lonely cottage, at some distance from

from her, resided a female and her child, whose appearance indicated a rank of life far superior to that of the usual inmates.

Her wish to gain further information respecting this stranger led her to the spot, where the first object that presented itself, was a sweet little girl playing before the door of the cottage, which, though homely enough, appeared neat and ornamented with more taste than cottages usually are. On asking the child if she lived there, she immediately replied, "Yes, ma'am, and so "does mamma." This conversation instantly brought to the door a gen-

teel

teel woman of interesting appearance, whose pale countenance bore such visible marks of ill health and of the grief that preyed upon her spirits, as could not but interest a character like Lady B—, and forcibly excite a wish to learn her history. The stranger pressed her to walk in, and rest herself in her humble dwelling; at the same time apologizing for the rudeness of her little hoyden from their secluded way of life—"We seldom see any, "Madam, but those who supply "us with necessaries." Her visitor gladly accepted the invitation, and by conversing with her, found her as perfectly accomplished as her

 outward

outward deportment was striking and elegant. She appeared to be about thirty years of age, and was dressed in mourning. Against the wall was suspended by cords a few shelves, containing the works of several good authors, and on the table lay a bible and her work-basket. Perceiving the surprise of her noble visitor, she addressed her thus:—"The situation in which "you find me, Madam, has no "doubt excited your surprise. Al-"though unknown to you, yet "from the little intercourse I have "with the neighbourhood, I have "some reason to believe I am ad-"dressing myself to Lady B—."

Lady

Lady B— bowed assent.—" My
" tale, Madam, is long and melan-
" choly. My dear little Anne, the
" companion of my solitary hours,
" is the only comfort left me on
" this side the grave; and were it
" not for her sake, I should ar-
" dently pray to be quickly removed
" to another and a better world,
" where I trust my sorrows will
" have an end. I see your lady-
" ship is affected: pardon me for
" being the cause of one moment's
" uneasiness to you; but my motive
" for unfolding to you my wretched
" story is, lest the world should
" misconstrue my reasons for retir-
" ing from it; and these I shall have

"great pleasure in explaining to so "worthy a friend of the distressed "as Lady B—."—"My dear Ma- "dam," replied Lady B—, "I am "sincerely interested in your mis- "fortunes; and if the time would "permit, I should be happy to re- "main with you, and to hear your "narrative: I feel honoured by the "confidence you repose in me, and "shall rejoice if I am able, by parti- "cipating, to relieve your sorrows. "To-morrow, if you will permit "me, I will repeat my visit, and I "flatter myself that you will give "me the promise of a similar re- "turn." The two ladies then parted, mutually pleased with each other,

other, anticipating with satisfaction the promised interview of the morrow. I shall also at present take leave of my young friends, assuring them how much I am theirs, &c.

LETTER VI.

I FLATTER myself that my last letter has so far interested the feelings of my fair friends, as to make them rather anxious to hear the conclusion of the stranger's narrrative. To resume my story then—According to her promise, Lady B— returned the following day to the cottage, and having seated herself, after mutual salutation, the stranger began her history in the following words:—

"I was the only daughter of most "respectable parents, whose cir-

"cumstances,

" cumstances, although not very
" limited, were yet by no means
" equal to the many claims upon
" their liberality which were conti-
" nually made. Even generosity
" itself, Madam, noble a principle
" as it is, if exercised without due
" discrimination, becomes a fault.
" After the decease of my father,
" I was united to one, whose ad-
" dresses were sanctioned by the
" approbation of a fond indulgent
" mother, who soon after left me in
" this world of care to lament her
" loss. My husband possessed a
" truly amiable disposition of mind,
" and an income resulting from a
" genteel employment fully ade-
" quate

" quate to the supply of all our own
" wants; but alas! he also had a
" heart which felt for others' woes
" too keenly, and which led him to
" listen to fictitious tales of distress,
" told him by a set of designing
" men, who outwardly paid him the
" most flattering marks of distinc-
" tion, while they imposed on his
" credulity, and made their secret
" and ruinous depredations upon
" his property. Among these vil-
" lains was one, who had often
" spoken before him of his im-
" mense expectations, which were
" to be realized at this or that pe-
" riod, but who, in fact, was at the
" very time so deeply involved in
" diffi-

" difficulties, that he knew not
" which way to extricate himself.
" As a last resource, this man ap-
" plied to, and unfortunately, after
" a weak resistance, prevailed on
" Mr. Morden to become joint se-
" curity with him on bond for a very
" considerable sum. As the time of
" payment drew near, Mr. Morden's
" anxiety hourly increased, which
" the other as constantly endea-
" voured to remove by the most po-
" sitive promises that the money
" would be ready at the appointed
" time, and that he would submit
" to any fate rather than suffer such
" a friend to be a loser by his kind-
" ness to him. The next post
" brought

" brought my poor husband the fa-
" tal news, that his specious friend
" had shipped himself for the con-
" tinent, leaving him to satisfy the
" demands of the contract which
" he had so unguardedly entered
" into, and to lament, too late, the
" irreparable embarrassment which
" his too easy credulity had brought
" upon himself and his family. His
" strict sense of justice and honour
" determined him to discharge those
" demands to the last farthing;—
" he did so, and was a beggar. The
" difficulties we now struggled with,
" began to undermine the happiness
" of a pair that had hitherto expe-
" rienced the most pure sensations

" of

" of happiness. Poverty had suc-
" ceeded to competence, and brought
" with it a train of attendant evils
" that threw a shade over the bright
" prospects which dawned upon the
" first years of our union. At this
" miserable period did my little
" Anne first see the light. Had it
" pleased the Almighty at this time
" to have taken me to himself, it
" would have spared me the severe
" pang of seeing a beloved husband
" sink into the grave; but I was
" enabled to pour the last drop of
" comfort into the bitter cup of woe
" for one whose heart could not
" stand the shock of so much deceit.
" He struggled hard against the sea

" of

" of afflictions, but the waves rose
" too high for his shattered frame
" to repel, and in six weeks left me
" a widow, and my child an orphan.
" At first I resigned myself to grief,
" till at length roused by the cries
" of my helpless infant, I started as
" from a trance; I became sensible
" of the error I had committed, and
" summoned all my resolution to
" my aid. With the little I had
" been able to save from the wreck
" of our fortune, I determined to
" retire altogether from the world,
" and devote my whole time to the
" care and instruction of the only
" remaining object of my love. The
" relatives of Mr. Morden have been

" pleased to reflect so severely on
" his imprudent conduct, that it
" is impossible I can keep up any
" kind of intercourse with them;
" and having no partiality for any
" particular county, (for the un-
" happiness I had suffered has
" given me a total distaste to the
" world in general) I accidentally
" met with this retired spot, where
" I have resided ever since; and I
" feel happy that my good fortune
" has directed me to the neighbour-
" hood of so amiable a character as
" your ladyship. In this solitary
" way of life, my greatest comfort
" springs from my firm reliance on
" an all-gracious Providence for his

 " protection

"protection of my darling child,
"whenever he shall please to call
"me to my much-loved husband;
"while the pleasing task I am en-
"gaged in, of rearing the tender
"plant, which you see arrived thus
"far in its progress towards matu-
"rity, serves as a balm to the
"wounds of my heart, which,
"though partly closed, never will
"be healed."—Thus ended the stranger's tale. It is scarcely necessary to add, that from that moment a sisterly regard has subsisted between the two friends, each alternately claiming the affection and society of the little Anne.

Thus

Thus, my dear young ladies, ends a story, which will serve to shew you, how great a comfort, under all difficulties, is perfect resignation to the will of Heaven, and how guarded every one should be in not indulging a spirit of generosity beyond what common prudence will point out. Yours, with esteem.

LETTER VII.

AUTUMN.

THE further advance of summer, my gentle friends, brings us to autumn, and to those luxuriant scenes of harvest, when the fields are yielding to our support their rich burthens of golden grain. All have their use: the wheat and rye supply us with bread, the grand staff of life; barley furnishes us with beer; and oats serve as food to the most useful of all domestic animals, the generous horse.—Ah! why is this most noble creature treated with such inhuman barbarity as we daily witness?

witness? When a man attacks a fellow-creature, redress is almost always to be obtained; but when the poor brute creation is exposed to the savage blows of their enraged tyrants, what power of defence have they? It is true, the laws of our country prohibit such offences; but either from indolence, or an unpardonable want of feeling for the poor animals, how very few are brought to the punishment that is due to crimes of this nature. But let us quit these melancholy reflections, and enter upon a far more pleasing theme,—the entrance of a troop of cheerful gleaners, anxious to pick "the scatter'd "ears that fall."—See, how they

spread themselves over the wide stubble, for

"No rake takes here what Heav'n to all
" bestows,
" Children of want! for you the bounty flows,
" And every cottage, nightly, at the door,
" Receives a burthen from the plenteous store."
BLOOMFIELD.

Then follows, to conclude this bountiful season, the gay repast of the harvest home.

The trees and shrubs already now begin to assume their beautiful autumnal colours; the flowers fade, and shed their seeds; and all Nature seems to prepare for some great change; and yet how grateful to the mind is this variety of season! Can

we

we ever sufficiently adore the great Creator, whose hand has thus mercifully displayed these ever varying scenes before us!

But autumn has its terrors also, as well as its beauties; for frequently the fair face of the sky is suddenly defaced with dark clouds—the forked lightning seems to threaten instant destruction—the awful thunder rolls in big peals over the astonished traveller's head. Hear what the untutored Indian says of thunder—"Thunder is the voice of God, "when he clothes himself with ter-"ror, and speaks to the spirits of "the lakes: the sea flies, and knows not

" not where to fly; the trees on the " loftiest mountains bow down their " heads, and the vallies tremble; " the heavens forget their course, " and the clouds melt away in big " round drops of rain." In these awful moments, however, to allow our fears to overcome our reason, is very faulty. It is the guilty soul only that has occasion to tremble; innocence has nothing to fear. He, without whose permission not even a sparrow falleth to the ground, can preserve us in the most terrible storm equally well as in the calmest day; and should it seem good to Him to call us on a sudden, making the lightning His ministers of death,

death, we ought to await the moment, which sooner or later must come, with full resignation to His pleasure, and say—" Thy will, O " God, be done !"

I remain yours ever most affectionately, &c.

LETTER

LETTER VIII.

WHAT will my young correspondents say to their friend and guide, if she attempts a parallel between this sombre season of the year, and that season of declining life which resembles it, but which yet is so far from their present prospects and gay spring of life? You, my dears, like the seasons, will undergo these changes: your spring will become summer; your summer also will glide into autumn; although the progress is slower, and perhaps less perceptible than are the changes which the year passes through. The comparison between

between this season of life and that of the year, holds good in every point of view. In each a graver aspect is assumed; since it appears equally unnatural for the autumn of life to affect the playfulness of youth, or to be decorated with the gay colours of spring, as for trees to put forth new leaves, or bud a second time, in the autumn of the year. Each season has its amusements also peculiar to itself; and however apt we may be to lament that the two pleasantest periods are gone by, yet are there charms belonging to the one we are now considering, which are not to be met with in either of the preceding. The other

sex,

sex, at least, have no reason to complain of the change; for now

"The loit'ring sportsman feels th' instinctive
"flame,
"And checks his steed to mark the springing
"game;
"Midst intersecting cuts and winding ways
"The huntsman checks his dogs, and anxious
"strays
"Where every narrow riding, even shorn,
"Gives back the echo of his mellow horn."

BLOOMFIELD.

In short, all who delight in the amusements of autumn will not deem the change unpleasant. Just so in life—They who have arrived at the autumn of their days, must needs have had more happiness at the beginning than falls to the lot of

of many, if they again wish to recall their younger days. Happy, thrice happy are they who can look back on their past life without regret, and to whom not one unpleasant reflection rises in the review to cause a repentant sigh!

When that period shall arrive to my dear little girls, may this blest state be theirs, is the sincere wish of their friend, &c. &c.

LETTER IX.

WINTER.

THE leafless trees, the brook arrested in its course, the flocking of the hungry sparrows to the barn-door, the falling shower of snow, do all proclaim, beyond possibility of doubt, the actual arrival of stern winter. And can winter delight? —Has winter too its charms?— Yes, my fair ladies—ask the votaries of pleasure, that love the gay amusements of the town, the merry dance—ask the more grave admirers of the snug fire-side, amused with their books, their pen, or the chit-

chat of a friend, while the storm which beats against the windows serves but to give relish to, and heighten the comforts of a clean hearth and glowing fire; and will they refuse the tribute of praise even to this season of the year, and forbid the approaches of hoary winter? I am sure my young friends will gladly welcome the return of that month of general joy and innocent festivity, which celebrates the birth of the Redeemer of mankind, when the gates of hospitality are thrown wide open to the poor neighbours, and all is (what the occasion demands) joy, peace, and good-will towards mankind. For

my part, I reverence that good old custom of bestowing Christmas cheer, once so common in every family of affluence, when the board was crowded with the honest souls of the neighbourhood, and the old stories went round after the repast, and Christmas games concluded the day.

Nor was the village pastor unmindful of his flock in these good times: his more humble, but not less hospitable table, was at this festive season open to guests of the same rank, who were invited to partake of the bounties which he owed to their toil;—the good pastor,

tor, I mean, of whom Goldsmith sings—

" Thus to relieve the wretched was his pride,
" And e'en his failings lean'd to virtue's side."

Who would not wish to be one of the flock of such a man?

" To them his heart, his love, his griefs were
" giv'n,
" But all his serious thoughts had rest in
" Heav'n."

Yes—winter brings its pleasures with it; and if it had no other use, it at least affords, what ever will relieve the mind — variety; and serves, by its striking contrast, to render the other seasons the more agreeable. Life, too, has its winter, venerable old age, the last period of

lives. Now is the time, if ever, for serious reflection, and now are enjoyed the fruits of holiness which have been laid up in store in early life. The hoary head commands that respect which it never fails to obtain, when goodness crowns it. We look up to such a person as a superior being, with more than common reverence; we pay unusual deference to their opinions, the result of many years' past experience; we admire their condescension in mixing with society, with those so far below them in age or worth; and we view such exalted spirits with equal awe and delight, calmly rising to receive

ceive their just reward—a crown of glory.

I have now, my young friends, concluded my observations on the four seasons of life ; in leading you through which I have endeavoured to beguile the tediousness of the way, and to blend amusement with instruction. How far I have succeeded, I must leave to my kind readers to determine ; and I take my leave of them for the present, with my sincere wishes for their happiness in their progress from the spring to the winter of their days. I am, my dears, yours ever, &c.

LETTER

LETTER X.

ON TRAVELLING.

To those who are in circumstances sufficiently affluent to afford them this delightful satisfaction, I know no amusement more gratifying, no employment more rational or instructive, than the visiting foreign countries. Curiosity is a principle strongly implanted in the breast of mankind, and perhaps is no where so amply indulged as when the various productions of foreign climes, and the manners of the people inhabiting the different quarters of the globe, are surveyed. But it is some-

somewhat astonishing, that while these foreign novelties have attractions in them sufficient to rouse the curiosity of our modern travellers, and attract so many of them across continents, seas, mountains, and desart plains, the equally wonderful productions of their own country are reckoned altogether unworthy of notice, or at least seem to hold but a second place in their estimation. It should, one would think, be the first care to see all that may be seen at home, before they quit their native country in search of novelty; since both the natural and artificial objects of admiration which our own island produces,

present

present to their research beauties equally entitled to notice with the most celebrated varieties of any country whatever. The wonders of the Peak, the various springs of salutary mineral waters, and the rich mines which offer to us their inexhaustible stores of coal, lead, copper, &c. as all these wonders of Nature well deserve their first attention, on the one hand; so, on the other, it is I think unpardonable to fly for amusement to other shores, before they have condescended to examine the astonishing efforts of Art, which they may find in every manufacturing town, in every sea-port, and in fact

fact in almost every town and city in England.

To explore these, to get acquainted with their first principles, to initiate themselves, as it were, in the grand mysteries of Nature and Art, as they may be found at home, would not only enable travellers to enjoy with greater relish the novelties they will find abroad, but would qualify them to judge better what new varieties of natural productions, what new and useful improvements in every department, whether of literature, commerce, manufactures, or agriculture, would be worth their acquisition, and essentially

sentially beneficial to their native country. Such curiosity, and such motives for visiting foreign nations, are truly praise-worthy, and bespeak a liberal, generous, patriotic, mind.

These reflections naturally bring to mind the ill fate of our own countrymen, who, during the late peace, visited France, and whose curiosity has paid the forfeit of a long confinement. How must every feeling and good heart revolt at the treachery of the man, who could so far violate the established laws of nations and his own conscience, as to seize and detain as prisoners of war,

war, even to the present moment, the peaceful travellers, who, confiding in his honour, and unconscious of ill-will to the tyrant, had ventured to set foot in his dominions, to gratify their eager curiosity and taste for the polite arts, of which Paris was now proclaimed to be the grand emporium. From the savage and uncivilized murderers of the late intrepid and much lamented Mr. Parke, in the heart of Africa, we scarcely dared to expect any other fate for the venturous explorers of those dominions; but from the chief of the most polished nation of the earth, who would have looked for such a breach of

hospitality and good manners, not to say a word of the injustice of such conduct? Such, however, is the man who has obtained his dignity at the expence of suffering thousands. Providence alone can foresee to what end this extraordinary son of ambition is raised; he is doubtless an instrument in the hands of God for some wise purposes, and when these shall be accomplished, we cannot but think such pride, ambition, and wickedness, must have a downfall, and the groaning nations of the earth will at last rejoice that their greatest scourge is no more.—Adieu, my gentle readers.

LETTER

LETTER XI.

A TALE.

I WOULD that my powers were equal to my desire of affording my dear little friends amusement, interspersed with instruction and useful advice. But so superior to mine have been the talents employed in this department of furnishing books for their use, and so frequently has the path which I am now pursuing been trodden by those who have gone before me, that scarce any room is left for variety of matter: if, therefore, I relate a

borrowed tale, I hope I shall receive my reader's pardon.—

Soon after the conclusion of a peace, the Duke of Montague had frequently observed, that a middle-aged man, in something like a military dress, of which the lace was much tarnished, and the cloth worn thread-bare, appeared at a certain hour in St. James's Park, walking to and fro in the Mall, with a kind of mournful solemnity, or seated on one of the benches wrapt in thought, heedless of the gay crowd that in constant succession thronged by him. This man the Duke singled out, as likely to be found a fit object

ject on which to exercise his humanity. On entering into conversation with him, he by degrees drew from him a disclosure of his situation, which was briefly this:—that he had expended his whole stock of cash in the purchase of a commission; that he had endeavoured, by strict attention to his duty as an officer, and resolution in the hour of danger, to merit preferment, but without success; and that, at the conclusion of the war, he was, with many other of his brave companions, reduced to half-pay, on which alone he at present subsisted. On further enquiry he also learnt, that the poor captain had a wife and several chil-

dren then in Yorkshire, to whom he constantly remitted a moiety of his small pittance, which he had found wholly inadequate to the maintenance of them in or near town.

The good Duke had heard enough, and he took leave of him for that day. Having formed his plan, he very shortly after watched an opportunity, when the captain was sitting in his usual manner, alone and buried in thought, to send a servant to him with his compliments, and an invitation to dinner the next day.

Recovering from his surprise at this

this unexpected message, the captain returned his thanks for the honour intended him, and promised to wait on his Grace at the hour appointed. To-morrow came; he was punctual to his appointment, and was received by the Duke with particular marks of civility. In a short time dinner was announced—but who can paint the countenance of the astonished veteran, when, on entering the dining-room, he saw seated at the table—his wife and children!

The Duke had commenced his operations immediately after his first conversation in St. James's Park, with

with sending a messenger express into Yorkshire for the lady and her family, not allowing her an opportunity of giving her husband a word of information on the subject. It is much more easy to conceive than to describe a meeting so sudden, unexpected, and extraordinary: Suffice it to say, that it afforded his Grace the highest entertainment, who at length quietly seated them at the table, and used every persuasion to induce them to partake the dinner.

After some time, a servant informed the Duke, that his attorney attended upon some particular business,

siness, according to his Grace's orders. After apologizing to his guest for the interruption he feared he should give them for a few minutes, he ordered the gentleman of the law to be introduced, and on his entrance desired him to read the writing which he held in his hand; he did so, and, to the indescribable confusion and astonishment of the poor captain and his wife, they heard pronounced a deed, which settled upon them a genteel competency for life. The Duke then signed, sealed, and presented it to the captain, who was unable to utter a word, desiring him to accept it without compliment, "For," said

said he, "I am certain I could not "have employed my time or my "money more to my satisfaction in "any other way." Overwhelmed with the kindness and generosity of his noble host, the captain and his family took their leave of the Duke, with prayers for his prosperity, whilst he himself had the satisfaction of knowing, that he had rescued a deserving character from a state of hopeless distress.

Can there be, my dear young friends, a character more to be envied, than that of the man whom fortune enables, and inclination leads, to do so noble a deed as I have

have now recorded of the Duke of Montague? Such exalted minds ennoble human nature. They are, like ministering angels, commissioned by the bounteous giver of all good, to dispense his blessings with a liberal hand. They seek for worthy objects of distress, and when found, relieve them. Nor need the search be long, for, alas!

" By shameful variance betwixt man and
" man,
" How many pine in want and dungeons
" gloom,
" Shut from the common air and common
" use
" Of their own limbs! How many drink
" the cup

" Of

" Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread
" Of misery! sore pierc'd by wintry winds
" How many sink into the sordid hut
" Of cheerless poverty!"

THOMSON.

Ever yours, &c.

LETTER XII.

ON MARRIAGE.

I WISH to address a few words to my young readers, on a subject which is of the utmost importance to them, and ought not, therefore, to be passed over in silence by one who has undertaken to give her fair pupils a short lesson on each stage of life. The choice of a partner in marriage will, I trust, never be made by them without the greatest deliberation, in as much as happiness or misery for the rest of their days probably depends wholly upon it. To insure the former, as far as hu-

man foresight can provide, it is necessary to observe with the strictest scrutiny, the principles of the man with whom they wish to pass their days in harmony. Into what a train of evils may that female be drawn, who suffers herself to be caught with the mere person and address of an admirer, who is at the same time utterly devoid of the great requisites of Truth and Honour; and whose sole object may be, perhaps, the attainment of the portion which he expects to receive on the wedding-day.

The surest marks of real and honourable love, cannot be better described

described than in the following passage, which I beg leave to extract from a treatise, entitled, *A Father's Legacy to his Daughters.*

"The following, I apprehend, "are the most genuine effects of an "honourable passion among the "men, and the most difficult to "counterfeit. A man of delicacy "often betrays his passion by his "too great anxiety to conceal it, "especially if he has little hopes of "success. True love, in all its "stages, seeks concealment, and "never expects success. It renders "a man not only respectful, but "timid to the highest degree in

"his behaviour to the woman he "loves."

It is equally necessary after marriage, for such of my sex as have made the choice I have recommended, to secure the happiness in their view, by avoiding petty dissensions on trifling occasions, by a gentle compliance with their husband's humour, as far as is reasonable; and even sometimes giving up the point, where they know he is in an error. Be assured, such soothing conduct will always meet its reward.

Œconomy, or prudent housewifery,

wifery, is one also of the many requisites which are absolutely essential to the lasting happiness of the married state. Of all the seducing errors to which the fashionable world is prone, there is one which I lament to see so frequent, as it always proves the most fatal to all plans of domestic œconomy—I allude to gaming; a vice, I am sorry to say, common to either sex. The seeds of this propensity are for the most part sown in early youth; a small stake first engages the passions; then a larger is necessary to create an interest in the game; till at length thousands are squandered away in a night, and the

unhappy gamester becomes a beggar.

Another egregious fault, in new married couples particularly, has, I am persuaded, produced more unhappiness, and ruined more families, than is often supposed—I mean, setting out in life on a more expensive scale than their finances would admit. A few years since, an elegant young woman, who had been brought up in all the luxury of a splendid fortune, married a gentleman, who had won her affections, and whose income was considered perfectly easy, and was in fact amply sufficient to gratify every

every reasonable indulgence. Both were young, gay, and thoughtless: the due attention to their expenditure at first entering upon life was unhappily neglected; and they became so involved in difficulties, that at length he was compelled to submit to the disgrace of confinement within the walls of a prison, whither his affectionate wife followed him, with her children. The calls of nature were barely supplied by the sale of almost every necessary they possessed. From this dismal place, however, the kind interference of an old friend at length liberated him; and by his interest procured him an appointment in a post of

conside-

considerable emolument. A second time then they were embarked, and a second time (will it be credited?) were they shipwrecked on the rocks of imprudence; and now, within the same walls from which they were but lately rescued, is the unhappy family lamenting their folly, and gradually sinking under misfortunes which they have brought on themselves, and cannot be relieved.

We may learn from this melancholy story, which came within my own knowledge, how fatal to the welfare and peace of mind of every married couple, are extravagant notions of grandeur and high life, and how

how great the utility of being properly instructed in the humble, but necessary arts of domestic œconomy. With earnest wishes for the prosperity of my young friends, I remain theirs, truly, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XIII.

ON BEHAVIOUR TO INFERIORS.

THERE is, probably, no stronger proof of real greatness of mind, as well as goodness, than a courteous behaviour towards those who are placed in an inferior sphere of life. Such conduct is more particularly pleasing and amiable in the female sex. Nothing appears to me more disgusting, than to see a delicate woman assuming the stately authority of a tyrant, issuing her commands to servants as if she considered them as the slaves of her will. A truly benevolent heart will never

be

be guilty of this violation of humanity; but will consider, that all are fellow-creatures, descended from one and the same common parent, and are all equally entitled to respect, and the comforts of a peaceful quiet life. To encourage us to carry ourselves with mildness and affability towards our servants and inferiors of every description, let us impress on our minds the belief, that the lower orders are not so devoid of feeling or of gratitude as too many have conceived. They most certainly do feel, and can justly appreciate the value of a kind and tender master. Many instances are on record of servants resolutely

continuing

continuing to attend their unfortunate patrons, without regard to self-interest, and merely from motives of affection and esteem; nay, how very often have the tears of sorrow dimmed the eyes of faithful domestics, at the distresses, the sicknesses, or decease of their much respected masters or mistresses!

And here let us pay our tribute of applause to the incorruptible, the noble fidelity of the sable slave. Let the faithless Christian servant blush, and strive to imitate his worthy example. Yet, to the shame of the enlightened European be it spoken, how are these worthy creatures

tures treated by the majority of their unfeeling relentless masters! Instances are on record, where these brave fellows have even sacrificed their lives for their masters; and—how are they repaid for their generous attachment? It shocks us to know there are such unfeeling monsters in the world; and that those monsters are our own countrymen. Can it be the fault of education, that the tempers of those tyrants over their fellow-creatures are so barbarous? If so, we have so much the stronger proof of the advantage of having a just sense of Religion and Virtue impressed on the minds of young persons at an early age;

for the earliest habits have always the greatest force. I am convinced, that there is indeed no period in which the disposition may not be amended, and even totally changed for the better; but the struggle is the greater, the more advanced the object of amendment is in life. The reformation, however, will abundantly recompence the trial to the sufferer.

Before I close this letter I must beg leave to introduce Lord Chesterfield's opinion of a supercilious temper:—

"If you are in authority," he says

says to his son, "and have a right "to command, your command de- "livered with sweetness, will be "willingly, cheerfully, and conse- "quently well obeyed; whereas, if "given strongly, that is, brutally, "they will rather, as Tacitus says, "be interpreted than executed. "For my own part, if I bade my "footman bring me a glass of wine "in a rough insulting manner, I "should expect that, in obeying "me, he would contrive to spill "some of it upon me, and I am "sure I should deserve it. A cool "steady resolution should shew, "that where you have a right to "command, you will be obeyed;

" but, at the same time, a gentle-
" ness in the manner of enforcing
" that obedience should make it a
" cheerful one, and soften, as much
" as possible, the mortifying con-
" sciousness of inferiority."

I must think his Lordship's opinion is a very just one; and I believe that, as it is given by one of such superior judgment, it will be engraven on your memory far stronger than any thing advanced by your respectful, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

ON PROPRIETY OF DRESS.

THE present age, I must acknowledge, does not require that caution which, a few years ago, it was very necessary to give to the ladies, against assuming the manners and dress of the other sex, when all female delicacy was laid aside as a useless and troublesome restraint upon them. At present, I repeat, there is no ground for such complaint. There is a natural and graceful ease in the manners, and a Grecian simplicity in the dress, of my fair countrywomen, which can-

not fail to please, except in some few instances, where the bounds of simplicity are overstepped, and occasion is given, by too thin and light a covering, to censure the present mode. We should avoid all extremes. The indulging in every freak of fashion indicates a weak mind. I would not wish my young friends to be indifferent about dress; I only caution them against making it their principal study: I earnestly recommend to them all reasonable attention to neatness; for by it we discover the true gentlewoman, much easier than by the colour or make of a gown. At one time the ladies used to distort their hair into

the

the most fantastic shapes that could be devised; and all did so because it was the fashion. We now pronounce it ridiculous. So, be assured, will every excess of fashion be reckoned when its day is gone by, and people can reflect coolly upon it.

From our earliest days, the cares of the toilette do certainly engross too much of our time. We are sensible of our error; and yet, strange to tell, vanity has usurped so powerful a dominion over us, to which we pay a willing obedience, that we daily practise what we ridicule in others.

If,

If, however, the necessity of making dress a part of our study and occupation be admitted, (and I see no reason why this should be denied to females, any more than other parts of our education) I think the time of that young person will be best employed, whose own fingers have wrought the ornaments which embellish her person. Such work is always commendable, and does credit to the industry, at least, of the wearer.

It would not be difficult to point out the connexion which subsists between simplicity of dress and simplicity of manners, for I am persuaded

suaded that the one has a powerful effect on the other; at least, a want of simplicity in the one gives the world but too much room to suspect a want of it in the other also. As my young readers, therefore, value the opinion of the good, and wish to bear the semblance of virtue, as well as possess the reality; so will they pay attention to the prudent advice which experience offers them, and ever take nature and simplicity as their best guides in selecting their various articles of dress.

" Virtue, the strength and beauty of the soul,
" Is the best gift of Heav'n: a happiness
" That

" That ev'n above the smiles and frowns of
" fate,
" Exalts great Nature's favourites; a wealth
" That ne'er encumbers, nor to base hands
" Can be transferr'd: it is the only good
" Man justly boasts of, or can call his own."

ARMSTRONG.

Once more adieu, my dears, and believe me ever yours, &c.

LETTER

LETTER XV.

ON TRUTH.

In the second letter I addressed to you, my dear girls, I ventured to give a few hints on the sin, as well as unhappiness, of deviating from the paths of truth; a vice which, I am sure, those who read my little work will avoid for their own sakes. I intend, in the course of this epistle, to say something further on that subject, as I consider it one of the most important, in every view, that can be introduced in a book designed to convey instruction and good advice to juvenile readers.

The

The smallest deviation from this great principle of honour has been mostly found to draw the offender to still greater enormities. The mind that once indulges itself in even what it may deem the innocent practice of embellishing a tale, or inventing one for the entertainment of the company, becomes by degrees so familiarised to untruths, that at length it has recourse to them without scruple on all occasions; and the unfortunate story-teller ends, as it may be expected, in a common liar. The effect of habit is wonderful: the offender knows not to what it may lead. One falsehood seldom is unaccompanied by another, either

to

to conceal the first, or to excuse it. It is impossible, therefore, to see the extent of guilt which a single slip of the tongue may, though undesignedly, lead the transgressor of this inestimable virtue of truth.

" Last Man arose, erect in youthful grace,
" Heav'n's hallow'd image stamp'd upon
" his face;
" And as he rose, the high behest was giv'n,
" That I alone, of all the host of Heav'n,
" Should reign protectress of the god-like
" youth:
" Thus the Almighty spake; he spake, and
" call'd me Truth."

MASON.

In confirmation of the lesson which I have before given you on this interesting topic, to the little

tale I there sent you, I now beg leave to add another, of which I will relate to you all the circumstances that came within my own knowledge.

A woman, in the streets of London, with two children by her side, evidently near her confinement, asked alms of a passenger, with rather a more persuasive tone of voice than is usual. Something in her appearance and manner induced this person to stop, and make several strict enquiries about her; to which she replied, that she was the wife of a sailor, who was at that time in a street which she mentioned, with three other little ones; that

that she expected hourly to lie in; and that the wretched lodgings they occupied had no other furniture than a bundle of straw, on which they slept. Her story so far gained the credit of the hearer, that a servant was sent the next day, to make a report of the state in which he might find them; which accorded in every particular with her tale: she was just brought to bed. Such extreme poverty and misery needed only to be known to obtain immediate relief. A subscription among a few friends procured them for the instant a supply of necessaries; and the sailor was directed to call every week during her confinement for

half-a-guinea. At the end of that time, she waited on her benefactress, and thanked her with every expression of gratitude for her kindness towards her. Being asked how a small sum (which was still in reserve) could be rendered the most serviceable to her, she said, that as her husband was free of the city, a barrow for the sale of fruit on Tower Hill was the height of her wishes. This was procured; and it was agreed, at the end of the first week she was to come to relate what success she had in trade. The intention was, although unknown to her, to add a little more to her stock, if a good use had been made

of

of what had been entrusted to her. But no tidings of her were received for many weeks. One day, however, the servant who had been employed in the affair at the first, by accident saw them in the same vagrant way of begging, and enquired the cause. They informed him, that a mad ox had, on the second day of their standing on the hill, overset the barrow, and destroyed their whole cargo of fruit; and that they were ashamed to mention to their good friend the ill success they had met with. This account seemed too improbable to meet with any credit; therefore it was concluded, they had otherwise expended the

money, which was humánely designed to earn them an honest livelihood. But this was not all: to deceit was superadded ingratitude also. For one day a gentleman overtook this very woman on a road, pursuing her usual way of life, and asked her, how it happened that she was again a strolling beggar, after having been so generously assisted, and relieved from want, by such a person, naming her benefactress. She denied the whole, adding, "I "only wish I had ever met with "such a friend." The sailor was at some distance further on the road: the gentleman, therefore, walked quickly on, and accosted him

him in the same manner, who acknowledged, how much they might have been benefited by such an act of kindness. The gentleman told him, he was glad that he possessed a sense of gratitude, for his wife had but the moment before utterly denied having ever received such a benefit. The above narrative needs but little comment. It points out, too clearly to be misunderstood, that deceit and lying carry their own punishment with them. It shews, too, (unhappily for the really deserving) how great is the difficulty of selecting such objects for our charity, as are likely in the end to become worthy of it.

Yours affectionately, &c.

LETTER XVI.

CONCLUSION.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

My life has been of so varied a hue, and I have undergone such vicissitudes of fortune in my progress through it, that if the advice I give cannot be said to come from an able teacher, yet, at least, it will be admitted, that it proceeds from an experienced one, particularly when I am upon a subject that I ought to be well versed in—patience and fortitude under afflictions and trials. The former, where it exists, argues a placid, easy disposition and

and frame of mind; while the latter implies, not only firmness of spirits, able to meet the frowns of fortune without sinking under them, but what are assuredly far better for the sufferer, calm resignation to the will of Heaven, and reliance on its protection; a steady persuasion too, that the power which inflicted the wound is alone able to heal it.

Happy they, who, under the burden of affliction, have been thrown into a part of the world, where the benevolence of its inhabitants shines conspicuous; and truly fortunate do I esteem myself in this instance, at least, that, like the poor weather-

beaten

beaten mariner, I have found in this spot an hospitable shore. Let not my gentle readers, I beseech them, so far wrong my heart, overflowing with gratitude, as to interpret my warm expressions in praise of Norfolk, into a mean desire of offering the incense of flattery to its much respected natives. No:—if I know my heart, it is incapable of so servile a propensity. High as I hold the numberless favours I have received from them, nothing should tempt me to write or speak what that heart could not assent to. Truth and gratitude both prompt me to say, that if the talents and powers of doing good, which the rich and great

great of every county possess, in their several proportions, are as well employed, and as generously directed to the relief of suffering worth, as they are in this distinguished county, they would reflect the highest honour on their illustrious possessors, and render them highly worthy of that most honourable of all titles, the "Friends of "Mankind."

But, to my young readers, I fear, this has appeared, for some time, too serious a subject. I plead guilty —yet, alas! what but serious subjects can flow from the pen of her who has drank so deeply of the cup of

of woe! I trust, however, I shall find an excuse in their gentle bosoms. In this confidence, I lay down my pen, and take my leave of them, with the most earnest wishes for their happiness. As for myself, all I hope is—

" May I, sequester'd in the vale of life,
" Where rage no whirlwinds of tempestuous
" strife,
" May I, from envy and from pride remov'd,
" Be known to few, and be by them belov'd.

COLL'S POEMS.

Yours ever sincerely and respectfully, &c.

FINIS.

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